

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for permitting insertion or replacement of electronic cards, the system comprising:
 - (a) a scanner for scanning hardcopy elements, the scanner comprising:
 - (a1) an electronic component for performing at least one processing function on an electronic representation of the hardcopy element;
 - (a2) a first processor for directing operations of the scanner and for receiving directions that are passed to other components;
 - (a3) a field-installed electronic card that performs additional processing on the electronic representation of the hardcopy element;
 - and
 - (b) a second processor electrically connected to the scanner for sending directions to the scanner processor which second processor includes field-installed control code for directing the field-installed electronic card.
2. (Original) The system as in claim 1, wherein the scanner includes an electronic board into which the field-installed electronic card is inserted.
3. (Original) The system as in claim 1 further comprising a computer into which the second processor resides.
4. (Original) The system as in claim 1, wherein the field-installed electronic card includes a third processor.
5. (Original) A method for permitting insertion or replacement of electronic cards, the method comprising the steps of:
 - (a) obtaining access to a scanner which scans hardcopy elements and which includes an electronic component for performing at least one

processing function on an electronic representation of the hardcopy element, and a first processor for directing operations of the scanner and for receiving directions that are passed to other components;

(b) installing a field-installed electronic card that performs additional processing on the electronic representation of the hardcopy element;

(c) obtaining access to a second processor electrically connected to the scanner for sending directions to the scanner processor; and

(d) installing field-installed control code into the second processor for directing the field-installed electronic card.

6. (Original) The method as in claim 5 further comprising the step of installing the field-installed electronic card into an electronic board.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 5 further comprising the step of providing a computer into which the second processor resides.

8. (Original) The method as in claim 5 further comprising the step of providing a third processor on the field-installed electronic card.

9. (New) The system as in claim 1, wherein the second processor is external to the scanner.

10. (New) The system as in claim 1, wherein the second processor is internal to the second processor.

11. (New) The method as in claim 5 further comprising the step of providing the second processor external to the scanner.

12. (New) The method as in claim 5 further comprising the step of providing the second processor internal to the scanner.